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Approved For Release 2007/03/13 : CIA-RDP79T00975A030600010066-9

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Friday 7 April 1978 CG NIDC 78/081C

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

State Dept. review completed

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ISRAEL: Government's Popularity

Israel's sharp differences with the US and the dimming prospects for a negotiated settlement with Egypt do not appear to have substantially affected the core of Prime Minister Begin's public support.

A respected public opinion survey published yesterday indicates that 56 percent of the Israeli public believes the Begin government is doing everything it can to obtain peace and that only 18 percent believes it should be doing more. Another survey, also published yesterday, shows that a small plurality believes US policy supports the Arab states more than it does Israel.

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[] The US Embassy believes that the peace rally last weekend, attended by some 20,000 people, represents an impressive but still limited segment of the Israeli public. Should the new movement pick up momentum, however, it could become a catalyst for a national debate on the issues affecting peace.